

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: AMB. JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF APRIL 7, 1976 (SALT TWO-965)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMB. JOHNSON AT
THE SALT TWO MEETING OF APRIL 7, 1976

AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT

APRIL 7, 1976

MR. MINISTER,

I

ON MARCH 10 AND MARCH 23 I PRESENTED AND ELABORATED ON A PROPOSAL
TO ASSURE ADEQUATE VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF COM-
PLIANCE WITH THE MIRV LIMITATION. ON MARCH 31 THE SOVIET DELEGATION
ALSO ADDRESSED THIS SUBJECT. THE US DELEGATION IS CONTINUING TO
STUDY THAT STATEMENT, AND WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON IT IN DUE COURSE.

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MEANWHILE, TODAY I WANT TO COMMENT ON ONE PART OF THE US PROPOSAL, A

MATTER TO WHICH THE SOVIET DELEGATION ALSO REFERRED IN ITS STATEMENT ON MARCH 31.

IN MY EARLIER STATEMENTS I NOTED THAT UNDER ARTICLE VI OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT, NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LAUNCHERS OF MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MIRV SYSTEMS BECOME SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION OF ARTICLE V WHEN THEY ARE IN THE FINAL STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. IN ADDITION, RULES WILL BE NEEDED TO ESTABLISH WHEN IN THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION CERTAIN LAUNCHERS OF ICBMS AND SLBMS BECOME LAUNCHERS OF A TYPE SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION OF ARTICLE V. THE BASIC PROVISIONS ESTABLISHING SUCH RULES BE CONTAINED IN THE NEW AGREEMENT. THE US DELEGATION RECOGNIZES THAT RELEVANT PROCEDURES MAY ALSO NEED TO BE WORKED OUT IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION.

ON MARCH 31 THE SOVIET DELEGATION SAID THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS OF WHEN THOSE SLBM LAUNCHERS WITH MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MIRVS, WHICH ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AS WELL AS ICBM LAUNCHERS IN THE EVENT OF THEIR CONVERSION FOR ICBMS WITH MIRVS, BECOME SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE V. IT IS THESE AND RELATED MATTERS THAT I WISH TO DISCUSS TODAY.

II

PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE VI PROVIDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE LIMITATIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT SHALL APPLY TO THOSE ARMS WHICH ARE IN THE FINAL STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. PARAGRAPH 2 OF THAT ARTICLE SPECIFIES WHEN ARMS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE FINAL STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 APPLY TO THE MIRV LIMITATION, AS WELL AS TO THE OTHER LIMITATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, IT IS THE US VIEW THAT THE EXISTING LANGUAGE OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH WHEN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LAUNCHERS OF MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MIRV SYSTEMS BECOME SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION. IN THE CASE OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SLBM LAUNCHERS, TO WHICH THE SOVIET DELEGATION REFERRED ON MARCH 31 SUCH LAUNCHERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION WHEN THE SUBMARINES ON WHICH SUCH LAUNCHERS ARE INSTALLED BEGIN SEA TRIALS. SIMILARLY, IT IS THE US VIEW THAT NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LAUNCHERS OF MOBILE ICBMS EQUIPPED WITH MIRV SYSTEMS WOULD BECOME SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT OUT OF THE SHOP, PLANT, OR OTHER FACILITY WHERE THEIR FINAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN PERFORMED; AND
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THAT ASBMS WOULD BECOME SO SUBJECT WHEN A BOMBER EQUIPPED FOR ASBMS WHICH ARE EQUIPPED WITH MIRV SYSTEMS HAS BEEN BROUGHT OUT OF THE SHOP, PLANT, OR OTHER FACILITY WHERE ITS FINAL ASSEMBLY OR CONVERSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EQUIPPING IT FOR ASBMS HAS BEEN PERFORMED.

III

MOVING FROM THE CASE OF NEW CONSTRUCTION TO THE CASE OF CONVERSION

TO MIRVS, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT ARMS ALREADY SUBJECT TO THE 2400 AGGREGATE LIMITATION BUT NOT SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION MAY BE CONVERTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BECOME SUBJECT THE MIRV LIMITATION. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SIDES AGREE ON WHEN SUCH CONVERTED ARMS BECOME SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION. THEREFORE THE US DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD CONTAIN APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS

WITH RESPECT TO SUCH CONVERSION OF ICBM LAUNCHERS, SLBM LAUNCHERS, AND ASMBs. IN THE CONNECTION THE US DELEGATION NOTES THAT ON MARCH 31, THE SOVIET DELEGATION MADE REFERENCE TO SUCH CONVERSION OF ICBM LAUNCHERS, BUT DID NOT REFER TO THE CONVERSION OF SLBM LAUNCHERS

THE US DELEGATION WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE REASON FOR THE OMISSION IN THE SOVIET STATEMENT OF REFERENCE TO THE CONVERSION OF SLBM LAUNCHERS.

IV

I NOW WANT TO TURN TO THE QUESTION OF HOW AND WHEN ARMS SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION MAY CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THAT LIMITATION. PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE VI, UPON WHICH THE SIDES ARE AGREED, PROVIDES THAT THE ARMS SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT SHALL CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECT TO THESE LIMITATIONS UNTIL THEY ARE DISMANTLED, ARE DESTROYED, OR OTHERWISE CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THESE LIMITATIONS UNDER PROCEDURES AGREED UPON IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION. THIS PARAGRAPH THUS PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING HOW AND WHEN ARMS SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THAT LIMITATION. PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH COULD INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, PROCEDURES FOR THE CONVERSION OF A MISSILE LAUNCHER WHICH IS SUBJECT TO THE MIRV LIMITATION, TO A MISSILE LAUNCHER WHICH IS

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NOT CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING A MISSILE EQUIPPED WITH A MIRV SYSTEM.

V

MR. MINISTER, TODAY I HAVE PRESENTED THE US VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO ONE ASPECT OF THE US POSITION REGARDING VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE MIRV LIMITATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR FURTHER VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.

JOHNSON

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